

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the City of Somerville. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2002.

Residents of the City of Somerville

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2002, there were 124,539 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 1.1% (1,339) of these admissions reside in the City of Somerville.¹ **Please note that these statistics represent only admissions, and can represent a figure larger than the actual number of individuals.** In FY 2002, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from City of Somerville reported the following characteristics:

- 72.2% (967) were male and 27.8% (372) were female.
- 62.7% (840) were between the ages of 30-49.
- 82.5% (1,104) were white non-Latino, 7.4% (99) were black non-Latino, 6.0% (80) were Latino, and 4.2% (56) were other racial categories.
- 67.4% (903) were never married, 9.5% (127) were married, and 23.1% (309) reported not to be married now.
- 25.2% (338) had less than high school education, 51.8% (694) completed high school, and 22.9% (307) had more than high school education.
- 17.9% (239) were employed.
- 25.2% (337) were homeless.
- 28.5% (381) had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the City of Somerville.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2002					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
City	46%	35%	4%	5%	3%
State	45%	37%	6%	4%	3%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

¹ To protect client confidentiality, statistics representing clients under 17 years of age have been omitted from this fact sheet.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, as well as the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Number of admissions Reporting Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2002							
City of Somerville							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,320	1122	458	544	308	333	203
FY '96	1,289	1,095	430	445	309	373	246
FY '97	1,239	1,031	381	407	300	392	268
FY '98	1,080	875	369	346	197	365	264
FY '99	1,031	814	324	341	183	394	298
FY '00	1,120	833	320	332	151	426	324
FY '01	1,332	1,024	387	425	214	604	460
FY '02	1,339	982	356	414	239	577	466

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the City of Somerville and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

